

The President, & Members,
Academy of Sciences,
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Sirs,

T.D./ We - the botanists and geneticists of America - have noted with regret the recent news of the dismissal of V.N. Sukachev and others from their posts as editors of Botanicheski Zhurnal, since we are led to understand that this action was taken as a result of their criticism of Lysenko (Bot. Zhurn. 43:1135, 1958 - ~~Ø~~"Some problems of Soviet biology"). While not wishing to interfere in the private affairs of a national academy, we are impelled in this instance to express our disapproval of the action. A reinstatement of Lysenkoism may be expected to lead again to a suppression of many fertile fields of genetic science, which, soundly based on a body of objective data, are generally accepted outside the U.S.S.R. As members of the international fraternity of scientists, we feel that ideological curbs on the free pursuit of research in any country tend indirectly to hamper the progress of us all.

We hope you will seriously reconsider your recent decision and its implications. We make this appeal in a genuine spirit of constructive criticism, confident that, if similar circumstances arose here, we would receive expressions of opinion from our colleagues abroad, including yourselves, and that we would accord them the sympathetic attention they deserve.

(President, N.A.S. of U.S.A.)

" Bot. Soc. Am.

" Gen. Soc.

etc.?